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15

CLAIMS

1. Transactional electronic entity characterized in that it comprises at least one subsystem (17) comprising a capacitive component (20) having a leak across its dielectric space, means for coupling said capacitive component to an electrical power supply to be charged by said electrical power supply, and means (22) for measuring the residual charge in said capacitive component, said residual charge being at least in part representative of a time elapsed after said capacitive component is decoupled from said electrical power supply.

2. Electronic entity according to claim 1, characterized in that it comprises switching means for decoupling said capacitive component from said electrical power supply.

3. Electronic entity according to claim 1 or claim 2, characterized in that said measuring means are used to determine an elapsed time.

4. Electronic entity according to claim 1, characterized in that it is autonomous and in that said electrical power supply is external to it.

5. Electronic entity according to claim 3, characterized in that, said capacitive component being charged during a transaction, said measuring means are used during a transaction of this type to provide information at least partly representative of the time elapsed since the last transaction.

6. Electronic entity according to any preceding claim, characterized in that said measuring means comprise a field-effect transistor (30) whose gate is connected to a terminal of said capacitive component.

7. Electronic entity according to any preceding claim, characterized in that said capacitive component (20) is an MOS technology capacitor whose dielectric space consists of silicon oxide.

8. Electronic entity according to claim 6 or claim 7, characterized in that said field-effect transistor is an MOS transistor, said gate (28b) floating during the time that elapses between two connections or couplings to an external power supply on the occasion of two successive transactions.

9. Electronic entity according to the combination of claims 7 and 8, characterized in that said field-effect transistor comprises an insulative layer between the gate electrode and a substrate, said capacitive component comprises an insulative layer (24) forming the aforementioned dielectric space disposed between a plate (28a) and a substrate (26), and said plate and said gate electrode are connected together.

10. Electronic entity according to claim 9, characterized in that the thickness of the insulative layer (34) of said transistor is much greater than the insulative layer (24) of said capacitive component.

11. Electronic entity according to claim 10, characterized in that the thickness of said insulative layer of said transistor is approximately three times that of said capacitive component.

12. Electronic entity according to claim 10, characterized in that the thickness of the insulative layer of said capacitive component is from 4 nanometers to 10 nanometers.

13. Electronic entity according to any of claims 5 to 12, characterized in that it comprises at least two of the abovementioned subsystems (17A, 17B) comprising capacitive components having different leaks across their respective dielectric spaces and it further comprises means (14, 15, T) for processing measurements of the respective residual charges to extract from said measurements information substantially independent of heat input to said entity during the time elapsed between two transactions.

14. Electronic entity according to claim 13, characterized in that said processing means comprise a table of stored time values (T) addressed by said respective measurements.

5        15. Electronic entity according to claim 14, characterized in that it comprises a memory space defining said table.

10        16. Electronic entity according to claim 13, characterized in that said processing means comprise software for calculating a predetermined function for determining said information as a function of said measurements and substantially independently of the heat input.

15        17. Electronic entity according to any preceding claim, characterized in that it is a microcircuit card.